Regional Defence Recruitment Centres in Himachal Pradesh

2004. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Defence Recruitment Centres situated in Himachal Pradesh from where maximum number of persons are in Army;

(b) the number of soldiers recruited throughout the State for all the three forces every year, category-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware of the corruption prevalent in such regional centres; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The number of Branch Recruiting Offices (BROs) in Himachal Pradesh in respect of the three forces are as under:

(i) Army	:	4
(ii) Navy		1
(iii) Air Force	:	Nil

(b) to (d) The number of soldiers/Personnel Below Officer Rank recruited from Himachal Pradesh in the three forces in the last three years is as under:

ARMY		
1998-1999	:	2691
1999-2000	:	2242
2000-2001	:	3200
NAVY		
1998	:	18
1999	:	44
2000	:	46
AIR FORCE		
1998	:	116
1999	:	46
2000		36

The recruitment in Navy and Air Force is carried out on all-India merit basis. For Navy and Air Force no case of corruption in recruitment has been reported from the Branch Recruiting Office in Himachal Pradesh. For Army two cases of corruption have been reported in the last three years. In one case penalty has been imposed upon the guilty and the action in another case is in progress. To obviate the possibility of any malpractices the recruitment in Army is carried out through open rallies. Recruitment is made in full view of the public which brings more transparency into the process of recruitment. This rally system is fair and candidate friendly.

Accident rates of MIG Aircraft

2005. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MIG aircraft of Indian Air Force have high accident rates;

(b) if so, how many accidents have been reported involving MIG-21, MIG-23 during the last five years; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last five years 81 MIG series aircraft have been lost in accidents.

(c) Human error (aircrew), bird hit and technical defects have been identified as main causes of these accidents by various Courts of Enquiry. Remedial measures based on the recommendations are instituted after each Court of Enquiry. In addition, measures to enhance the quality of training to improve skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and improve situational awareness are constantly being reviewed and implemented. Renewed thrust on acquiring simulators and training aircraft is a step towards improving the quality of the man behind machine. Besides, a total of 125 MIG-21 BIS variant aircraft have been planned for up-gradation. Out of these, two have already been upgraded in Russia during the